UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Monday, July 21, 2025

Straws in the Wind - Part 46

From Inside Higher Ed: *Ohio's Republican governor vetoed a budget bill provision... that would've let GOP legislators deny up to $75 million to public universities if the lawmakers determined they weren't complying with a sweeping new higher education law. Gov. Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 1 into law in March. Among other things, it allows "immediate and for cause post-tenure review" for university faculty members; prohibits full-time faculty from striking; bans diversity, equity and inclusion offices; mandates online posting of undergraduate course syllabi; requires institutions to "demonstrate intellectual diversity" in a range of areas; and prohibits unions from using their collective bargaining rights to negotiate over faculty workload and evaluation.*

Then, on June 25, the Ohio General Assembly passed a budget bill saying universities couldn't receive part of $75 million in state funding unless House and Senate higher ed committees and another group of legislators called the Controlling Board determined the institutions complied with SB 1. DeWine signed the budget bill into law June 30, but not without axing this provision. In his veto message, DeWine wrote that the provision "intrudes upon the constitutional authority of the executive branch to distribute funds that have been appropriated." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/07/07/dewine-axes-provision-letting-lawmakers-judge-sb-1-adherence.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 35

From the Harvard Crimson: *Yoav Segev, a recent Harvard Business School graduate, filed a federal lawsuit against Harvard and the Harvard University Police Department [last] Thursday, accusing the University of failing to protect him from an antisemitic assault on campus and obstructing the investigation that followed... Two students — Harvard Law School graduate Ibrahim I. Bharmal and Harvard Divinity School graduate Elom K. Tettey-Tamaklo — were charged with assault and battery in connection with the incident, but Segev argued that Harvard took no meaningful disciplinary action.*

Instead, he argued that Harvard celebrated the two student-employees: Tettey-Tamaklo, who was a residential proctor in a freshman dorm at the time of the confrontation, graduated from HDS in May as a class marshal, while Bharmal, then a teaching fellow at HLS, was awarded a $65,000 fellowship from the Harvard Law Review in April. (Class marshals are voted in by the graduating class, and the HLR is independent of the University).

The two were ordered by a Boston judge in April to attend anger management training, a course on negotiation, and perform community service. But Segev argued [last] Thursday that Harvard still had an obligation to investigate and discipline the students under its own policies. He contended that when he attempted to pursue disciplinary action through Harvard's internal process, administrators stonewalled the process, "inventing a facially absurd" policy that prevented Tettey-Tamaklo and Bharmal from being disciplined while there was an ongoing criminal investigation.

According to the Thursday filing, Harvard told Segev he could not file a complaint unless he did so "publicly and non-anonymously" — which he opted not to do so shortly after the event, a choice he said he made for safety reasons. When he then attempted to file a non-anonymous complaint more than a year later, the University rejected it as "untimely," claiming the investigation had already been completed... Tettey-Tamaklo was removed from his proctor position within weeks of the October 2023 protest...

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce
- CUCFA Opposes AB 715
- Pause Trellix and Form a Working Group to Explore Cybersecurity Solutions
- Objection to AB 1217, AB 684, and AB 500 – Protecting UC's Institutional Autonomy
- Delay the UC cybersecurity mandate

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 34: Derailing the Columbia Precedent - 7/27/2025
- The onto-epistemic limits of current American academic debates, Or what the modern West can't think (Guest Post) - 7/25/2025
- Liner Note 33. Trouble at the Irvine Core (UC Irvine Part 2) - 7/12/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

Search This Blog

Search

UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

politics (2052) UC (2001) UC Regents (1832) health care (1384) State Budget (1256) governor (1093) UC budget crisis (953) UC-Berkeley (885) diversity (817) pension (655) pensions (589) tuition (523) admissions (516) athletics (501) CSU (399) transportation (383) UC-Davis (373) online education (337)

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/7/19/segev-sues-harvard/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:03 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard

Straws in the Wind - Part 45

From the NY Times: *The California Institute of Technology has agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit that accused it of misleading students who signed up for a "boot camp" that carried Caltech's name but in practice had scant ties to the school, one of the world's richest universities. The settlement called for Caltech and an outside partner, Simplilearn, to change how they advertised the boot camp, adding new restrictions that threatened the program's allure... [The] court released documents that detailed the settlement's terms, Caltech said in an open letter it would cut ties with Simplilearn later this year...*

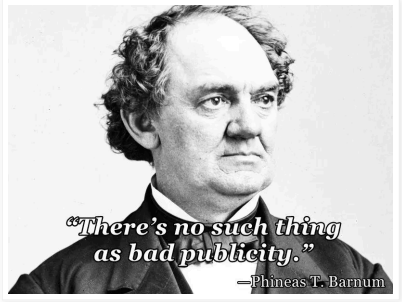
Caltech is among hundreds of universities across the country, many of them looking for new sources of revenue, that lent their names to courses that were largely run by outside companies, with schools often playing only limited roles in hiring, instruction or curriculum development. Some universities earn several thousand dollars for each student who enrolls in a branded program; researchers estimate that those fees add up to hundreds of millions of dollars a year across the higher education industry...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/07/us/caltech-simplilearn-settlement-bootcamp.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: CalTech

Bad PR



UnitedHealth - which among other things provides a Medicare Advantage plan for UC retirees - likely is hoping that Barnum was correct. But the NY Times reports that in case he wasn't, there is an alternative option:

Mary Strause, a filmmaker in Wisconsin, logged on to Amazon's video-streaming service in late May so she could share a link to her latest project, a docuseries that harshly criticized the U.S. health care industry. She was surprised to see that her video had vanished. Ms. Strause had no way of knowing it, but the video had been taken down after a law firm working for UnitedHealth Group, one of the country's largest health care companies, sent a letter warning Amazon and another streaming service, Vimeo, that the video was defamatory.

It was the latest salvo in an aggressive and wide-ranging campaign to quiet critics. In recent months, UnitedHealth has targeted traditional journalists and news outlets, a prominent investor, a Texas doctor and activists like Ms. Strause and her father, who complained about a UnitedHealth subsidiary. In legal letters and court filings, UnitedHealth has invoked last year's murder of Brian Thompson, the chief executive of the company's health insurance division, to argue that intense criticism of the company risks inciting further violence.

The tactics have had an impact. Amazon and Vimeo both removed Ms. Strause's film. The Guardian postponed publishing an investigation of the company after UnitedHealth sued over a previous article it said was defamatory...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/12/business/unitedhealth-insurance-criticism.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UCRS retirement

Saturday, July 19, 2025

Watch the Regents Morning Meeting of July 16, 2025

Usually, morning meetings of the Regents on the "middle" day of a three-day session will include a full Board initial meeting and then some committee meetings. However, on July 16th, there was just the full board. The meeting began with public comments covering complaints about the UC ban on student government anti-Israel BDS, concerns about possible increases in tuition and decreases in financial aid, requests to rehire laid-off lecturers, professional school tuition, pay for hospital residents, nurse bargaining, student-parents, antisemitism, cuts in student assistance programs, library layoffs, DEI rollbacks, immigrant safety and FAFSA, staff layoffs in health care, health insurance and pay for staff, complaints about a construction

UCOP (299) ucrp (298) uc retirement (296) audio (291) traffic (287) new hotel-conference center (282) UC enrollment (279) enrollment (253) UC-San Diego (250) community colleges (234) LAO (222) UC-Irvine (182) fund raising (163) UC-San Francisco (155) UC-Santa Barbara (155) UC-Santa Cruz (154) controller (144) faculty center (141) UC-Riverside (137) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (120) UC-Merced (110) faculty pay (109) Master Plan (102) Yudof (89) UCRS retirement (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (59) parking (59) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (34) copyright (31) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (21) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) Regents (13) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCpolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2025 (612)
- ▼ August (9)
  - NSF Fund Suspensions
  - Frankel Case Settles for Well Over $6 Million - Pa...
  - Straws in the Wind - Part 58
  - UCAD
  - Double D-Day (Deadline Decision)
  - New UCLA Police Chief
  - Straws in the Wind - Part 57
  - Fund Suspension
  - The Memo
- ► July (101)
- ► June (96)
- ► May (85)
- ► April (81)
- ► March (83)
- ► February (76)
- ► January (81)

► 2024 (832)
► 2023 (828)
► 2022 (719)
► 2021 (710)
► 2020 (914)
► 2019 (671)
► 2018 (595)
► 2017 (666)
► 2016 (715)
► 2015 (765)
► 2014 (704)
► 2013 (776)
► 2012 (839)
► 2011 (738)
► 2010 (431)
► 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

contractor at UC-Santa Cruz, and complaints about the requirement at the Regents that any masks be transparent.

After public comments, Chair Reilly thanked the legislature and governor for the recently-enacted budget but noted concerns about the federal bill signed by President Trump on July 4th and adverse effects on UC.

Faculty representative Cheung - who was attending his final meeting as representative - cautioned about a planned online undergraduate degree, noted problems arising with international students visas and suggested a need for online programs to allow international students to finish their programs, voiced concern about cuts in federal research support, and referred to a decline in public perceptions of higher education.

Normally, UC President Drake would have made remarks but his term ends on July 31st and he was on vacation.

Finally, the new student Regent-elect, Miguel Craven, was introduced.

===

As always, we preserve recordings of Regents meetings since the Regents have no policy on duration of retention. You can see the morning meeting at:

https://ia800501.us.archive.org/6/items/regents-7-16-2025/1-Board.mp4.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: Drake, UC Regents

Straws in the Wind - Part 44

From the Arizona Republic: *When Joyce Schroeder looks back at what medical research has accomplished in the United States, she's blown away. The professor leads a cancer research lab at the University of Arizona. She says new therapies for one of modern medicine's toughest challenges have continued to push what's possible and save thousands of lives... But now Schroeder fears not only for the future of scientific research in the U.S., but for her own lab at the UA, as changing federal policies may make it harder for her to pay for the lab's expenses following years of decreased financial support for the sciences.*

The Schroeder Lab, which opened in 2002, studies metastatic breast cancer. That refers to a stage of cancer that is often harder to treat, as the disease has spread to other areas of the body. Among different kinds of research, the lab has spent years developing new potential treatments for cancer patients... But the lab will likely receive less financial support as Donald Trump's administration seeks to limit the amount of indirect research costs paid with federal dollars. The abrupt change was announced in February, and although it was met with legal challenges, it remains in limbo. That comes on top of decreased funding for cancer research from the past decade, including money available to the National Cancer Institute.

In response to their budget concerns, a GoFundMe fundraiser was launched to support the lab's research and staff. It's raised around $2,000 so far, which would be the bare minimum to keep the lab open for a month...

Full story at https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-education/2025/07/06/university-of-arizona-cancer-lab-crowdfunding/84439427007/.

From the Orange County Register: *The interim president of USC... announced the launch of a new fund in which the "Trojan family" is being asked to donate to help advance the university's research programs in light of "extraordinary stress" currently felt by USC and other top universities from the Trump administration. Beong-Soo Kim said the Trojan Fund for Research Excellence "will give every member of our Trojan family the opportunity to advance USC's research mission and its far-reaching impacts on our community, our economy, our nation, and our world," according to an email message sent Monday to the USC community.*

In an accompanying video message, Kim said that over the last several months, "the research done at USC and other universities has come under extraordinary stress. Researchers who have devoted their lives expanding the frontiers of knowledge and understanding and developing life-changing therapies and technologies are understandably concerned about the future of their work." ...President Donald Trump has authorized large cuts to scientific research, the reorganization of student loans and an investigation accusing USC of failing to protect Jewish students during protests over Israel's war with Gaza following the Hamas attacks in October 2023...

Full story at https://www.ocregister.com/2025/07/07/in-wake-of-trump-stress-usc-asks-trojans-to-donate-to-new-research-fund/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, U of Arizona, USC

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 34

From the Harvard Crimson: *Several Harvard graduate schools shuttered their diversity, equity, and inclusion offices over the past two weeks, continuing the University's effort to replace DEI programs that the Trump administration has broadly painted as illegal.*

*The **Harvard Divinity School** replaced its diversity office with an Office of Community and Belonging on July 1, the office's dean wrote in a Thursday email, and the Harvard School of Public Health announced Friday that it would take the same step by renaming its diversity group the Office for Community and Belonging. **Harvard Business School** websites that previously advertised support for minority, women, and LGBTQ students have been removed. Staff at HBS whose titles previously included "diversity and inclusion" are now involved with "community and culture."*

*And the **Harvard Graduate School of Education** laid off its chief diversity officer, Jarrod Chin, and closed its diversity office..., according to the Boston public radio station GBH...*

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/7/13/grad-school-dei-removals/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Harvard, politics

Newer Posts Home Older Posts

Subscribe to: Posts (Atom)

Simple theme. Powered by Blogger.